

People -
AMES, FISHER

CHRONOLOGY - LIBRARY AND THE COMMUNITY

In 1941, ten-million books of all kinds were needed for the armed forces, and Fisher Ames was appointed by the State committee to receive all local contributions. By 1943, three-thousand books were received. Those suitable for the Victory Book Drive were properly classified and forwarded.

Town Report, 1942, p. 162-63. Town Report, 1943, p. 167.

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In 1953, under the new Librarian, Minnie B. Figmic, a new service to shut-ins was inaugurated and carried on by volunteers.

Town Report, 1953, p. 57

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In 1954, a "Great Books" discussion group was initiated and met two evenings a month.

Town Report, 1954, p. 63.

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- 1966 A preliminary grant of \$60,000 was received from the Board of Library Commissioners of the Massachusetts Bureau of Library Extension
- 1967 For the town to be able to raise money for a public building, the building, land and contents were to be owned by the town. The Town accepted the Library as a gift.
- 1967 A Building Committee was appointed. Work began on the new building Monday July 24
- 1968 Approval of the project and its financing received final approval from the Commonwealth, and included acceptance from the Federal Government of \$60,000. Private gifts for the Library totaled \$64,500.

Work on the new building and restoration of the original library was completed enough to begin operation in the new quarters in August.

The Helen Bumpus Gallery and the Walter C. Beckjord Reading Room opened.

Mrs. Minnie C. Figmic resigned as librarian and Mrs. Janice E. Neubauer was appointed Head Librarian.

- 1969 The construction contract declared substantially complete, although there was work to be corrected and extra work to be performed. On August 14, the Library was accepted by the Board of Selectmen for the Town.
- 1969 Increase in circulation to 66,653. A photo-copy machine was added and a special services area added with stereo-tape equipment, a screen and slide projector. The Helen Bumpus Gallery held eight shows. The Library became eligible for the new bookmobile service offered by the Eastern Massachusetts Regional Library System.